

The dreams of monsignor Carroll-Abbing have been realized today with nine Boys' Towns and one Girls' Town in Italy, all run by the monsignor's International Boys' Towns of Italy—the organization which he established. Today, orphans in Italy no longer go without homes. Besides the towns which he established, the monsignor's organization also donates money, clothes, medical care, furniture, and time to children in need.

Today, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's touch is felt around the world. He has extended his aid across seas and continents. The monsignor's Boys' Towns have provided homes for hundreds who have suffered due to war, famine, and disaster. In addition, the monsignor travels around the world to disaster sights to assist in relief efforts on each occasion with the help of children.

Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's major contribution to the world has been to give opportunity to a group of forgotten children who would have otherwise lacked it. Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing has served humanity throughout his life; whether they be orphans, delinquents, or children in need. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who has touched, changed, and saved the lives of thousands of children. For more than 50 years he has dedicated himself to improving the lives of children. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who should be revered by all, and overlooked by none, as one of the greatest humanitarians in history.

This year the Boys' Towns of Italy are honoring two outstanding Italian-Americans for their various achievements and contributions. The Boys' Town Entertainer of the Year Award will go to Mr. Dennis Farina. Mr. Farina has long been acknowledged as one of Hollywood's busiest actors, and has appeared in such hits as "Get Shorty," "Little Big League," and "Striking Distance."

The Boys' Town of Italy Man of the Year is Mr. Chuck Curico. Mr. Curico at the age of 17 joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served for 3 years. He received the Navy Achievement Medal for his service in the Vietnam war. He returned home, married, and graduated from college in 1972, the same year he founded Tire Kingdom with a modest investment of \$150. Tire Kingdom is now America's third largest independent tire dealer, and is currently listed as one of Florida's top 50 companies. Believing strongly in giving something back to his community, Mr. Curico has been actively involved in community service projects such as: Homesafe, Junior Achievement, the American Cancer Society, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many others. Mr. Curico, with his exemplary and tireless dedication to improving the lives of others serves as an illustration of what we all should strive to become.

WIDENING INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I have been speaking about the growing income gap in America. Due to the Republican Presidential race, this issue has finally been cata-

pulted into the forefront of the Nation's consciousness. In fact, it is hard to open a newspaper op-ed page or turn on a television news program without hearing something about declining worker wages, increased layoffs and increasing corporate profits and CEO pay. I am grateful that people have started to pay attention to this important problem. I fear, however, that as the Republican race winds down, the issue of the income gap will no longer be in vogue, and the media will turn its attention to something new.

We cannot squander this opportunity. The income gap is a growing problem that, if not addressed, threatens to undermine our Nation's prosperity and calls into question the type of nation we want America to be. We must take advantage of the attention now being paid to the problems facing working Americans.

Thanks in part to the deficit reduction measures we passed in 1993, the American economy today is in good shape: We enjoy strong growth combined with low unemployment and low inflation. The stock market is also reaching record highs, as are profits of many American companies. This should seem like good news for the average American family, for in the past, Americans at all income levels shared in our Nation's prosperity. Today, however, stock prices and corporate profits rise while the incomes of middle-class American families stagnate or drop.

If stagnating wages were the only problem that working Americans had to face, things might not be so bad. However, in recent years our Nation has also seen unprecedented worker layoffs in corporate America. Of course, it is understandable that such upheavals may occur as our economy becomes more technology-based and integrated into global markets. What is difficult to understand, however, are the tremendous bonuses and pay increases enjoyed by the very CEO's who lay off thousands of workers.

The United States has prided itself on being a nation of the middle class—one in which if you work hard and follow the rules, you can expect to do well enough to support yourself and your family. Alarmingly, this is no longer true for an increasing number of Americans.

In the decades following World War II, American workers shared in the successes of their employers. Over the past 20 years, however, only high-income Americans have moved ahead economically. Between 1977 and 1990, for instance, the average after-tax income of the wealthiest 1 percent of our population increased by 67 percent, after adjusting for inflation. During this same period, the average after-tax income of the bottom fifth decreased by nearly 27 percent.

This is not a problem that affects only the poor. Every year, thousands of Americans are laid off from well-paying middle class jobs, to be left with a choice between a new job that pays less or the unemployment line. Clearly, this trend cannot continue.

America's level of income inequality is already higher than that of any industrialized nation. Our middle class is evaporating, and we are well on the road to becoming a nation divided between a few very rich and many who simply struggle to get by. None of us, in the words of Labor Secretary Robert Reich, will "want to live in a society sharply divided between winners and losers."

Leaders in government and business must begin to address this problem, which will have

social consequences that far outweigh any economic impact. We must correct policies that exacerbate the income gap, and develop new ones that help to close it. Several of my Democratic colleagues have developed proposals to reduce the income gap by encouraging responsible corporate citizenship, boosting worker wages, and making our Tax Code more equitable. I commend them for these efforts, and call upon all of my colleagues to take action to restore working Americans' faith in the economy.

The widening income gap lays before us the question of what kind of country we want to be: one sharply divided between the rich and poor, or one in which all citizens can benefit from a strong economy. I believe that our choice is clear. America has always been the land of opportunity. We should work together for policies that do not favor any income group, but enable all Americans to share in our Nation's strength and prosperity.

INDIAN TYRANNY SUBJECT OF NEW VIDEO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken repeatedly about India's repressive tyranny in Punjab, Khalistan, and in other areas where the dominant population is not Brahmin Hindu. Now a new video has come out which exposes the pervasive nature of that tyranny, at least as it relates to the Sikh nation in Punjab, Khalistan. I thank the Council of Khalistan for sending me this powerful documentary Disappearances in Punjab.

This video was not made by Sikhs, but by a human rights activist who is Hindu. It is a solid investigation of the repressive nature of India's brutal rule of Punjab, Khalistan. Khalistan, of course, is the independent Sikh country declared on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan is its government in exile.

Disappearances in Punjab focuses on Sikhs who have been made to disappear by the Indian regime. According to a coalition of prominent human rights groups and individual activists, there are more than 100,000 Sikhs who have been subjected to this cruel fate. Perhaps the most prominent is the general secretary of the human rights wing—Shiromani Akali Dal—Jaswant Singh Khaira. Mr. Khaira was whisked away from his Amritsar home on September 6, less than a week after meeting with a congressional delegation to discuss a report he had published. In the report, Mr. Khaira showed that over 25,000 young Sikhs men had been abducted by the regime, tortured, and killed, then their bodies had been declared unidentified and cremated. After the report was published, the Tarn Taran police chief explicitly told Mr. Khaira that he, too, would be made to disappear. After more than 6 months in illegal detention, Mr. Khaira's whereabouts remain unknown. As the video shows, this incident is unfortunately part of a pattern of intimidation through terror by the Indian regime.

The video publicizes real victims of India's brutal repression. It shows us a policewoman talking about the disappearances and other repression in Punjab, Khalistan. It is vivid indictment of the brutality that is a way of life in